

Application/Control Number: 09/732,425

Page 2

Art Unit: ***

CLMPTO

12/11/2003

VA

Claim 1 is canceled.

Rev'd 1/10/02 2. (Amended) A method of operating an atmospheric pressure plasma source comprising the steps of:

Rev'd 1/10/02 coupling an r.f. power supply through a coaxial transmission line to a suitably designed tuning network;

B1 coupling said network to a small plasma chamber having suitable electrodes located within;

coupling a gas manifold that provides a suitable mixture of oxygen and a noble gas to said small plasma chamber; and,

utilizing the portion of the plasma that spills out of the small chamber for localized sterilization purposes, including cavities, small access holes, and other hard-to-reach places.

Claims 3 & 4 are canceled.

Rev'd 1/10/02 5. (New) The method according to Claim 1 including the further step of providing a magnetic field in the plasma region for increasing the ionization ratio.